



THE GREATEST HEROES of COMICDOM'S GOLDEN AGE!

60¢
U.K. 25p
CAN. 75¢

★ ★ ★
NO. 22
JUNE



AN ACTION
EPIC BY
ROY THOMAS,
JERRY ORDWAY,
& MIKE
MACHLAN!

ALL-STAR SQUADRON

VS. DEATHBOLT!
CYCLOTRON!
--AND
ULTRA

MAKES
THREE!!



WHERE
THE
ACTION
IS!



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WHERE
THE
ACTION
IS!

A MAN'S HOME IS HIS CASTLE, OR SO THEY SAY, AND CERTAINLY NO DOMICILE SHOULD BE SAFER, MORE SECURE, THAN THE SECRET MOUNTAIN CITADEL OF SUPERMAN, RIGHT?

GUESS AGAIN.

SAY YOUR PRAYERS,
ALL-STARS! FOR
MYSELF, I WORSHIP
ONLY POWER--

--SUCH AS THAT
EMBODIED IN THE
POWERSTONE!

ONCE I'VE
BATHED FULLY
IN ITS VIBRANT
RAYS, I'LL HAVE
NO TROUBLE
SLAYING THE
THREE OF
YOU!

BETTER MEN
THAN YOU HAVE
TRIED THAT,
ULTRA!

BETTER
"MEN"?

IF HE THINKS THAT'S A GUY,
BELLE, SUPERMAN'S EYESIGHT
HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY THAT
THING'S GLOW!

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WINTER, 1942-- A WORLD AT WAR, AND AGAINST THE FORCES OF AXIS DARKNESS, THE MIGHTIEST HEROES OF EARTH-TWO HAVE BANNED TOGETHER UNDER DIRECT ORDERS OF THE PRESIDENT AS THE

THE STAR SQUADRON™

YOUR NEW COMRADES SEEM CONFUSED, OLD FRIEND. DO YOU WANT TO TELL THEM-- OR SHALL I?

YOUR GENDER'S THE LAST THING I CARE TO TALK ABOUT, RIGHT NOW, MURKIN.

HAND BACK THAT GEM, BEFORE I WIPE THE FLOOR WITH YOU AND YOUR HAIRY MUNCHKINS-- NOT TO MENTION THAT DEATHBOLT CHARACTER!

DEATHBOLT!? GOOD GRIEF, LANTERN-- WE CAN'T FORGET ABOUT HIM!

NO CHANCE OF THAT!

GLAD TO HEAR IT--

THE POWERSTONE CORRUPTS-- ABSOLUTELY!

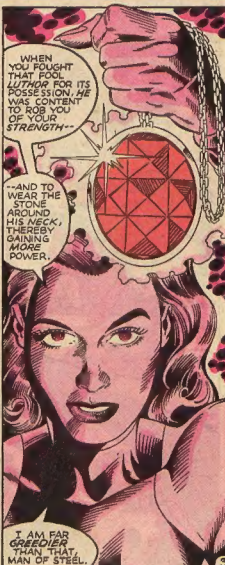
--CAUSE I ALREADY GOT ENOUGH POWER, WITHOUT HAVIN' TO STEAL A SHINY ROCK TO GET MORE!

"He who is too powerful seeks power beyond his power."
--Seneca.

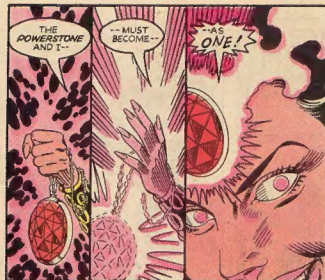
ROY THOMAS*JERRY ORDWAY
writer/editor
illustrator
MIKE MACHLAN, inker
CARL GAFFORD colorist
DAVID CODY WEISS letterer



YOU TWO TAKE CARE OF DEATHBOLT WHILE I-- GREAT SCOTTY!
I'M BEING SLOWED DOWN-- IT'S LIKE SWIMMING THROUGH MOLASSES!



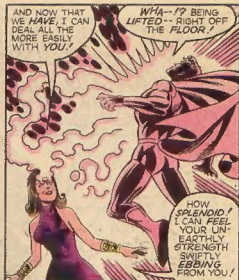
WHEN YOU FOUGHT THAT FOOL LUTHOR FOR ITS POSSESSION, HE WAS CONTENT TO ROB YOU OF YOUR STRENGTH--
--AND TO WEAR THE STONE AROUND HIS NECK, THEREBY GAINING MORE POWER.
I AM FAR GREEDIER THAN THAT, MAN OF STEEL.



THE
POWERSTONE
AND I--

-- MUST
BECOME--

--AS
ONE!



AND NOW THAT
WE HAVE, I CAN
DEAL ALL THE
MORE EASILY
WITH YOU!

WHA--!? BEING
LIFTED-- RIGHT OFF
THE FLOOR!

HOW
SPLENDID!
I CAN FEEL
YOUR UN-
EARTHLY
STRENGTH
SWIFTLY
EBBING
FROM YOU!



NOW, WHAT WAS THAT YOU
SAID ABOUT MOPPING THE
FLOOR WITH US?

THE
CITADEL--
THE WHOLE
MOUNTAIN--
SHAKING!

RRMMMBLL!



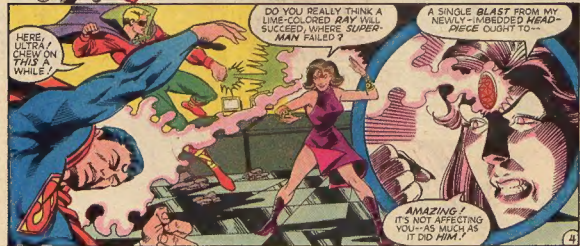
THEN
SUPERMAN
MUST STILL BE
PARTLY INVUL-
NERABLE --OR
HE'D BE
SQUASHED TO
A PULP BY
NOW!



BUT I'D BETTER USE
MY POWER RING--
BEFORE HE IS!

CAREFUL,
G.L.! IN
SOME WAYS,
THIS ULTRA
SEEMS TO
HAVE MORE
POWER THAN
THE BRAIN
HAVE DID.

MAYBE...
MAYBE
NOT!



HERE,
ULTRA,
CHEW ON
THIS A
WHILE!

DO YOU REALLY THINK A
LIME-COLORED RAY WILL
SUCCEED, WHERE SUPER-
MAN FAILED?

A SINGLE BLAST FROM MY
NEWLY-IMBEDDED HEAD-
PIECE OUGHT TO--

AMAZING!
IT'S NOT AFFECTING
YOU--AS MUCH AS
IT DID HIM!



DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM, SWEET-CHEEKS--



--NOT WHILE OL' DEATHBOLT'S ON THE JOB!

--UNNNH! I COULDN'T GUARD-- AGAINST BOTH OF THEM--AT ONCE!

MY ONLY CHANCE IS-- A CLOSE DEFENSE!



HUH? SOME KINDA BUBBLE FORMIN' AROUND HIM--!



HIS RING-RAY MIGHT PROTECT HIM FROM EITHER ONE OF US--

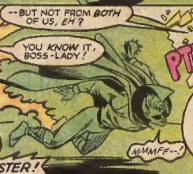


--BUT NOT FROM BOTH OF US, EH?

YOU KNOW IT, BOSS-LADY!

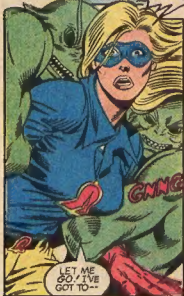
THEN LET ME CALL YOU WHAT YOU REALLY ARE--

MONSTER!



PTHOOM!

STOP CALLING ME BY THOSE FEMININE EPIPHETS! YOU KNOW HOW I HATE BEING REFERRED TO AS A WOMAN!

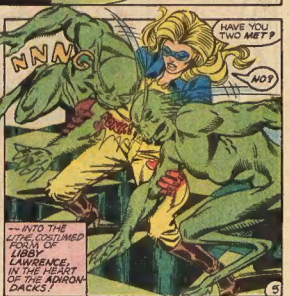


LET ME GO, I'VE GOT TO--

SUDDENLY, LIBERTY BELLE'S METAL BUCKLE SEEMS TO GIVE OFF AN EERIE RINGING SOUND--



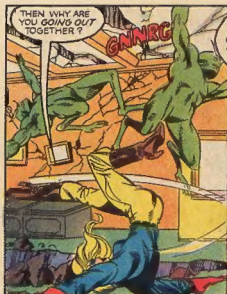
--AS A STREAM OF ENERGY FLOWS FROM THE TRUE LIBERTY BELL IN DISTANT PHILADELPHIA--



HAVE YOU TWO MET?

NO?

-- INTO THE LITHE, COSTUMED FORM OF LIBBY LAWRENCE, IN THE HEART OF THE ADIRON DACKS!



...ONCE I'VE FINISHED INDULGING MY QUITE-UNDERSTANDABLE VANITY.

AS YOU RECALLED, LIBERTY BELLE, I--THE ULTRA-HUMANITE--WAS INDEED A MALE WHEN I BEGAN MY CAREER AS A SUPER-SCIENTIFIC CRIMINAL--

--AS HEAD OF AN ORGANIZATION I CALLED THE CAB PROTECTIVE LEAGUE.

"SUPERMAN SQUELCHED MY LITTLE PROTECTION RACKET-- BUT I ESCAPED. INVALID THAT I WAS.

"AND DEAD I WOULD HAVE BEEN, HAD I NOT GIVEN MY GANG EARLIER INSTRUCTIONS FOR TRANSFERRING MY INDOMITABLE BRAIN INTO ANOTHER HUMAN BODY.

"BECAUSE OF A PREVIOUSLY PLANNED KIDNAPING SCHEME, THAT TURNED OUT TO BE DOLORES WINTERS--YES, THE FAMOUS MOVIE ACTRESS!"

"...AFTER WHICH, AS DOLORES WINTERS, I ABDUCTED A PHYSICIAN NAMED TERENCE CURTIS--WHO IN THAT LATE '39 DAY HAD JUST SUCCEEDED IN SPLITTING THE ATOM ON HIS OWN.

YOU'RE COMING WITH US, CURTIS!

YOU CAN'T MAKE ME HELP YOU!

OH?

NOT SURPRISINGLY, YOU WERE ON HAND WHEN I STRUCK, WERENT YOU, SUPERMAN?...

THAT PLANE-- IT JUST POINTED A LIGHT-BEAM AT THAT TOWER--AND IT CRUMBLED!

"AFTER WASTING PRECIOUS SECONDS SAVING THE LIVES OF WORTHLESS BYSTANDERS BELOW--

"SOMEWHAT LATER, HE THOUGHT ME DEAD-- KILLED BY THE SAME MYSTERIOUS DISEASE I MYSELF HAD CREATED--

DAILY STAR
THURSDAY, OCT. 10, 1939
PURPLE PLAGUE GRIPS METROPOLIS!
TAKES TERRIBLE TOLL

REPORT BY CLARENCE MEYER
PHOTOGRAPH BY JACK KANE

THE SEX OF THE NEW HOST BODY DOES NOT MATTER. ONLY TIME MATTERS!

THE OPERATION I HAD PLANNED WAS A SUCCESS, OF COURSE...

"MY TORTURE-RAY BROKE HIM, NATURALLY, AND SOON I WAS BROADCASTING TO METROPOLIS...

...AND AS A SAMPLE OF MY POWER, I WILL DESTROY THE WENTWORTH BUILDING AT 2:00 THIS AFTERNOON!

"...SUPERMAN FOLLOWED THE PLANE TO MY HIDDEN HEAD-QUARTERS WITHIN A LONG-EXTINCT VOLCANO.

HE MADE SHORT WORK THERE OF THE CRUDE ROBOTS I SENT AGAINST HIM.

"SOMEHOW, I HAVE NEVER QUITE MASTERED THE ART OF ROBOTICS, AS I HAVE SO MANY OTHERS.

"AT LAST WE CONFRONTED EACH OTHER AGAIN--

"IT WAS TERRY CURTIS WHO FOLED MY ESCAPE...

"YOU'RE NOT DESTROYING METROPOLIS--OR ANYPLACE ELSE!

LET ME GO!

"...AND I FLED AS HE SHATTERED WALLS OF DIAMOND DRILLS I HAD TRAPPED HIM INSIDE.

"WRIGGLING OUT OF HIS GRASP, I HURLED MYSELF INTO THE VOLCANO, WHICH MY MACHINATIONS HAD MADE ACTIVE AGAIN--

"...AND, THINKING ME DEAD, HE CONTENTED HIMSELF WITH ADMONISHING CURTIS!

FORGET YOU EVER SUCCEEDED IN DISRUPTING THE ATOM--FOR ALL OUR SALES!

GOOD LORD--!

"BUT SUPERMAN'S MUSCLES SOON SQUELCHED THAT MAKESHIFT PLAN...

I WILL!

HOW NAIVE OF YOU BOTH! NOTHING TRULY LEARNED CAN EVER BE FORGOTTEN... AS YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.

NEVER MIND THAT! HOW DID YOU ESCAPE THE VOLCANO'S FIRES?

FOOL! I WAS NEVER REALLY IN THEM!

I HAD LEAPED INTO A MECHANICAL MOLE HIDDEN BEHIND BOULDERS CONTAINING ENOUGH LEAD TO SHIELD ME FROM YOUR X-RAY VISION...

PRECEDING SCENES FROM ACTION COMICS #13, 14, 17, 19-21, #34-40. --R.T.

"...AND I BURROWED DEEP, DEEP INTO THE VERY EARTH...

"... WHERE I ENCOUNTERED A SUBTERRANEAN RACE -- THE SUB-MEN, I CALL THEM.

"SINCE THEIR OWN WOMEN ARE ALL DEAD, THEY WORSHIP ME -- AND I COWED THEM INTO SERVING ME.

PERHAPS I SHOULD REWARD THEM FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE... BY TURNING YOU OVER TO THEM! EH?

YOU FIEND--!

BUT OF COURSE I'M A FIEND, WOMAN! WHAT ELSE DO YOU SUPPOSE I'M TRYING TO BE??

AS, MILES AWAY, WITHIN THE GLEAMING PERISPHERE ON THE GROUNDS OF THE 1939-40 NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR...

CHEST ROTOR ALL REWIRED LIKE YOU WANTED, ROBOTMAN.

GREAT! NOW NO BADDIE'LL BE ABLE TO BYPASS ELEKTRO'S AUTO-RESPONSES AND TURN HIM AGAINST US AGAIN.*

"HIS?" YOU GUYS TALK LIKE THAT THING'S ALIVE! IT'S JUST A ROBOT.

UH-- NO OFFENSE, ROBBIE.

*AS THE BRAIN WAVE DID IN ISSUE #19--ROY.

YOU MEAN A WORKING ROBOT'S NOT AMAZING ENOUGH IN 1942, JOHNNY?

BESIDES, COMMANDER STEEL AND I'VE GOT OTHER PLANS FOR HIM.

OH YEAH... I FORGOT.

A ROBOT BUTLER! NOT LIKELY!

STILL SCRIBBLING DOWN OUR SECRETS, TARANTULA?

DROP IT, QUICK, I'M NOT IN A MOOD FOR BEING BAITED JUST NOW, OKAY?

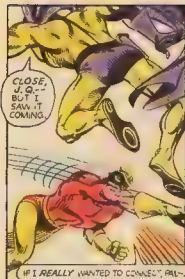
NOW LOOK, I--

NO, YOU LOOK! YOU'RE PIQUED BECAUSE LIBERTY BELLE WENT OFF WITH SUPERMAN AND THE LANTERN-- BUT DON'T TRY VENTING YOUR SPLEEN ON ME.

BESIDES, I DOUBT THERE'S A WEDDING RING UNDER HER LEFT GLOVE, SO--

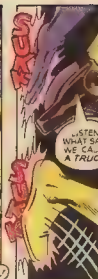
YOU'RE LOOKING TO GET SQUASHED, SPIDER-BREATH!

SO DO IT, AND STOP PRATTLING ABOUT IT.



CLOSE, J.Q.-- BUT I SAW IT COMING.

IF I REALLY WANTED TO CONNECT, FRI--

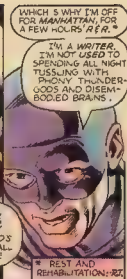


LISTEN, WHAT SAY WE CALL A TRUCE?



IT OCCURS TO ME I SHOULDN'T HAVE BAITED YOU, EITHER.

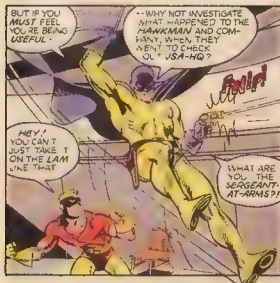
YEAH, I GLESS WAITIN' AROUND'S GOT US ALL ON EDGE



WHICH S WHY I'M OFF FOR MANHATTAN, FOR A FEW HOURS' RER.

I'M A WRITER. I'M NOT USED TO SPENDING ALL NIGHT TUSSLING WITH PHONY THUNDER-GOODS AND DISEM-BODIED BRAINS.

* REST AND REHABILITATION: RET.

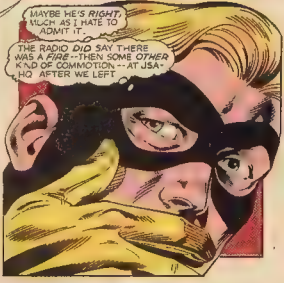


BUT IF YOU MUST FEEL YOU'RE BEING USEFUL -

--WHY NOT INVESTIGATE WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HAWKMAN AND COMPANY, WHEN THEY WENT TO CHECK OL' JSA-HQ?

HEY! YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE T ON THE LAM LIKE THAT

WHAT ARE YOU THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS?!



MAYBE HE'S RIGHT, MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT.

THE RADIO DID SAY THERE WAS A FIRE--THEN SOME OTHER KIND OF COMMOTION--AT JSA-HQ AFTER WE LEFT



BEATS SITTING AROUND HERE ANYWAY

WAITING FOR LIBBY TO COME BACK AND START REDECORATING OUR NEW HEAD-QUARTERS.



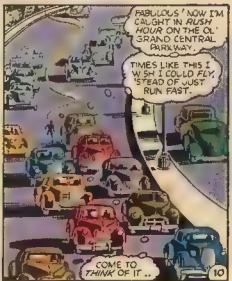
OURS, ANYWAY, PROVIDING THE CITY LETS US HAVE -- HUH?

SORRY, BUDDY.

MAUDE -- DID YOU SEE --?

SEE WHAT, FRED?

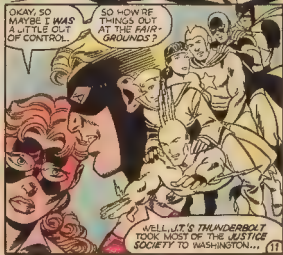
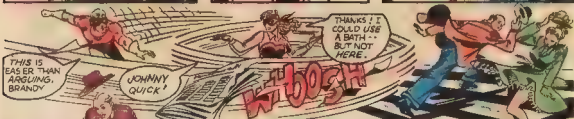
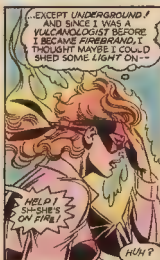
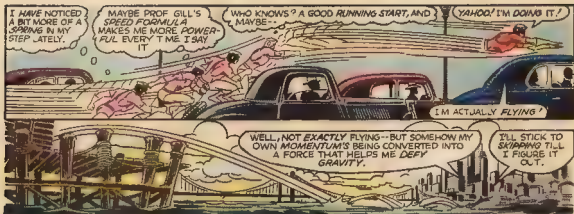
NEVER MIND



FABULOUS! NOW I'M CAUGHT IN RUSH HOUR ON THE OL' GRAND CENTRAL PARKWAY.

TIMES LIKE THIS I WISH I COULD FLY, 'STEAD OF JUST RUN FAST.

COME TO THINK OF IT ..





...SUPERMAN TOOK BELLE AND G. L. TO SEE HIS BACHELOR FLAT...

...AND I TOOK A SWING AT TARANTULA, JUST TO PROVE WHAT A TOUGH GUY I AM.



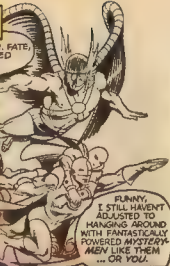
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED TO JSA-HQ, ANYWAY? I WAS THERE BEFORE A COP SENT ME HERE-- AND THE PLACE'S A TOTAL LOSS.

A FIRE AND A GUY CALLED CYCLOTRON HAPPENED.

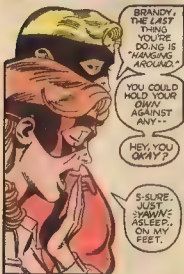


SOON, AFTER DANETTE REILLY HAS REITERATED RECENT EVENTS...

...THEN HAWKMAN, DR. FATE, AND THE ATOM HEADED SOUTH FOR THE WINTER, TOO.



FUNNY, I STILL HAVEN'T ADJUSTED TO HANGING AROUND WITH FANTASTICALLY MYSTERY-MEN LIKE THEM ... OR YOU.



BRANDY, THE LAST THING YOU'RE DOING IS "HANGING AROUND."

YOU COULD HOLD YOUR OWN AGAINST ANY--

HEY, YOU OKAY?

S-SURE. JUST YAWNING ASLEEP... ON MY FEET.



MAYBE YOU'RE USED TO HOURS OF NON-STOP ACTION AND NO SLEEP... BUT NOT THIS EX-DEBUTANTE.

YOU KIDDING? I'M AS DEAD ON MY DOGGIES AS YOU ARE.



MAYBE... IF I COULD JUST... SIT DOWN A MIN--

BRANDY? POOR KID!

DON'T PASS OUT ON ME NOW...



...CAUSE I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU

YOU'RE FLYING!



IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING.

HERE'S YOUR RENTHOUSE, WHILE YOU GET SOME SHUT-EYE...



.. MIND IF I SACK OUT ON YOUR SOFA?

BE MY GUEST.

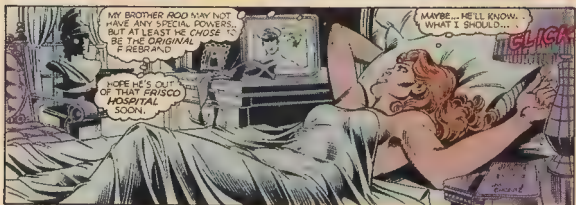
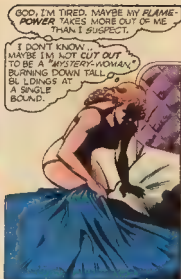
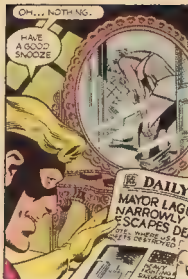


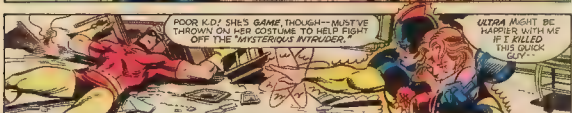
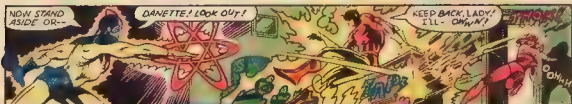
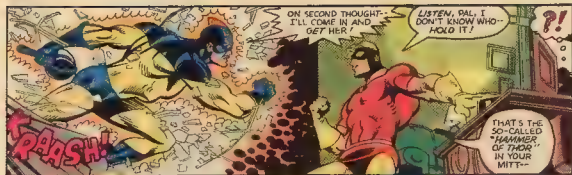
JUST DON'T WAKE ME UNLESS SOMETHING IMPORTANT HAPPENS, OKAY?

HOW IMPORTANT?

JAPAN SURRENDERING WOULD ALMOST DO IT

YOU GOT IT, SISTER.





...NOT THAT JOHNNY QUICK'S EYES WERE OPEN TO SEE:



BRANDY'S GONE! HE MUST HAVE TAKEN HER WITH HIM.



WELL, I'LL SOON--UH-OH!

MY SPEED FORMULA'S WORN OFF!



GOTTA SHOUT IT OUT--FAST!

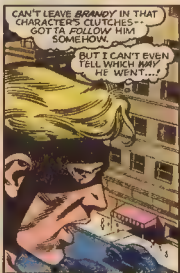


3X2(9Y2)4A!



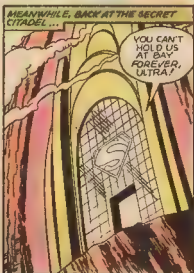
WHEW! THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

AT LEAST NOW I CAN CREATE ENOUGH OF AN UPDRAFT TO SLOW MY FALL.



CAN'T LEAVE BRANDY IN THAT CHARACTER'S CLUTCHES-- GOTTA FOLLOW HIM SOMEHOW.

BUT I CAN'T EVEN TELL WHICH WAY HE WENT....!



MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE SECRET CITADEL...

YOU CAN'T HOLD US AT BAY FOREVER, ULTRA!



I DON'T INTEND TO, OLD FRIEND.

ONLY TILL I DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH THE THREE OF YOU.

I GOT AN IDEA OR TWO ON THAT SCORE.

WHERE'D YOU PICK UP THIS LOWLIFE, ULTRA? YOU USED TO HAVE A LITTLE MORE CLASS.



STICKS AN' STONES, SUPEY!

STALL ALL YA WANT-- IT WON'T DO YOU NO GOOD.

SOON AS SHE GIVES THE WORD, I'M GONNA CHARCOAL-BROIL YOU CLOWNS AND SERVE YOU TO THE SUB-MEN.

WHAT SAY, LADY? CAN I--?

I TOLD YOU-- NEVER CALL ME THAT!

I'M NO WOMAN, IN MY OWN MIND'S EYE-- AND NEVER WILL BE!

YEAH? WHAT ABOUT IN MY EYES?

YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE DEATHBOLT, DEAR CAPTIVES, HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A--

BUT PERHAPS I SHOULD EXPLAIN!

YOU SEE, I QUICKLY BECAME BORED WITH RULING THE SUB-MEN...

...ESPECIALLY SINCE, BEING WOMAN-LESS, I SUSPECTED THERE WAS A SEXUAL SIDE TO THEIR NEAR-WORSHIP.

"I BEGAN CASTING ABOUT FOR A NEW WAY TO CASH IN ON MY UNIQUE INTELLECT... AND SOON DEVISED A METHOD OF TELEPORTING MY MECHANO-MOLE FROM PLACE TO PLACE..."

...THOUGH ONLY TO AND FROM THE INTERIORS OF VOLCANOES, EITHER ACTIVE OR DORMANT.

"I'D GO ON, BUT YOUR PUNY MINDS WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND."

"AT ANY RATE, I HAD JUST MATERIALIZED INSIDE THE GREAT METEOR CRATER IN ARIZONA--IN A DRIVING RAINSTORM. I MIGHT ADD--

--WHEN I SAW A SPUTTERING BIPLANE BEING PURSUED BY A POLICE PLANE.

"INSTINCTIVELY, I KNEW THE MAN IN FRONT MUST BE MY KIND OF PEOPLE... NAMELY, A FELON!"

"JUST THEN, BY INEXPLICABLE CHANCE, A THUNDERBOLT STRUCK THE HAPLESS BI-PLANE."

THROOM!

--AND IT CRASHED INTO THE CRATER--ADMITTEDLY, WITH A BIT OF LAST-MINUTE HELP FROM CERTAIN MAGNO-GENERATORS IN MY MOLE.

"THE POLICE, OF COURSE ASSUMED THE PILOT WAS DEAD...AND IN ANY EVENT, COULD NOT HAVE LANDED SAFELY IN THE STORM."

"IF THEY HAD, THEY'D HAVE FOUND
NO PILOT IN THE BURNING WRECKAGE..."

"HURRY, YOU MISBEGOTTEN
MORONS! HE'S
BARELY
ALIVE!"

"SOON, BACK AT MY NEW UNDERGROUND
LABORATORY, I PERFORMED CERTAIN...
ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTS ON HIM..."

"CHARGING
HIM LIKE A
HUMAN BATTERY
TO SUSTAIN HIS
LIFE."

"AS A
SIDE
EFFECT..."

"--I GAINED CONTROL OVER THE
ELECTRIC ENERGY IN ME-- AND AROUND ME"

"YEAH, I
THINK I
ALREADY
CLUED 'EM
IN ON
THAT
SCORE."

"I THOUGHT I'D RECOGNIZED YOU"--
FROM AN OLD MOST-WANTED LIST."

"OF COURSE,
BELLE! HE'S
JAKE SIMMONS--
WANTED FOR
FIRST-DEGREE
MURDER!"

"THEN THE TWO OF
THEM DESERVE EACH OTHER."

"I ASSEE WITH YA THERE, LANTERN--
BUT I DON'T LIKE THE WAY YOU SAID
IT, SO I THINK I'LL --"

"STOP,
DEATHBOLT! I
REMEMBER
WHO IS
MASTER
HERE!"

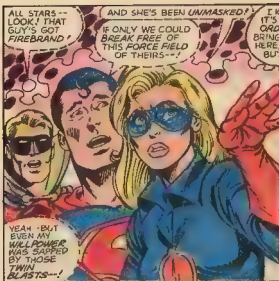
"YEAH, SURE
BUT--HEY!
WHATSA??"

"WELL, WELL-- IF IT AIN'T LITTLE
LORD CYCLOTRON, THE GUY WHO
THINKS HE'S TOO GOOD FOR OUR
THREESOME."

KASH!

"IF YOU MEAN
I DON'T LIKE
HANGING AROUND
WITH COLD-BLOODED
KILLERS--YOU'RE RIGHT!"

"AND LOOK
WHAT HE
BROUGHT
WITH 'IM!"



ALL STARS --
LOOK! THAT
GUY'S GOT
FIREBRAND!

AND SHE'S BEEN UNMASKED!

IF ONLY WE COULD
BREAK FREE OF
THIS FORCE FIELD
OF THEIRS--!

I KNOW
IT'S AGAINST
ORDERS TO
BRING ANYONE
HERE, ULTRA,
BUT--

YEAH--BUT
EVEN MY
WILLPOWER
WAS SAPPED
BY THOSE
TWIN
BLASTS--!



INTERESTING! I
RECOGNIZE DANETTE
REILLY, DAUGHTER OF
STEEL TYCOON 'EMERALD
ED' REILLY.

HE WAS SOMEONE
I CONSIDERED KID-
NAPING--INSTEAD
OF DOLORES
WINTERS.

BUT WHY DID YOU
BRING HER HERE?



BECAUSE, ULTRA-- I LOVE
HER-- AND I THINK SHE
ONCE LOVED ME?

YOU?

I THOUGHT
CYCLOTRON
LOOKED FAMILIAR,
BUT I NEVER
GUESSED HE WAS--
TERRY CURTIS!

BUT YOU'RE NO
CRIMINAL--AT
LEAST, YOU WEREN'T
A YEAR AGO, WHEN
WE WERE--

--WHEN WE
WERE LOVERS,
YOU MEAN?
DANETTE?

NO, I WASN'T
A CROOK THEN--
OR A MURDERER
EITHER, BUT THAT
WAS... BEFORE

NOW I'VE NO
CHOICE BUT TO--

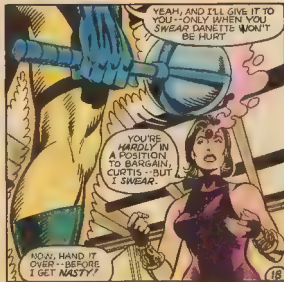


THAT'S ENOUGH! CYCLOTRON-- RESUME YOUR
DUTIES! MY SUB-MEN WILL TAKE CARE OF
THE GIRL

A-ALL RIGHT, ULTRA-- BUT I
DIDN'T BRING HER HERE
TO BE HARMED

IF ONLY I
WEREN'T SO
WEAK--!

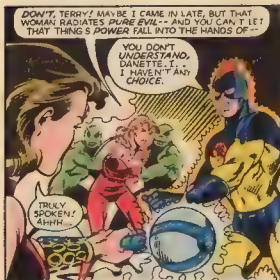
I'LL GET YOU--NOT WHAT I SENT YOU
FOR--THE 'HAMMER OF THOR.'



YEAH, AND I'LL GIVE IT TO
YOU--ONLY WHEN YOU
SWEAR DANETTE WON'T
BE HURT

YOU'RE
HARDLY IN
A POSITION
TO BARGAIN,
CURTIS--BUT
I SWEAR.

NOW, HAND IT
OVER--BEFORE
I GET NASTY!



DON'T, TERRY! MAYBE I CAME IN LATE, BUT THAT WOMAN RADIATES PURE EVIL-- AND YOU CAN'T LET THAT THING'S POWER FALL INTO THE HANDS OF--

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, DANETTE. I... I HAVEN'T ANY CHOICE.

TRULY SPOKEN!
AHHH

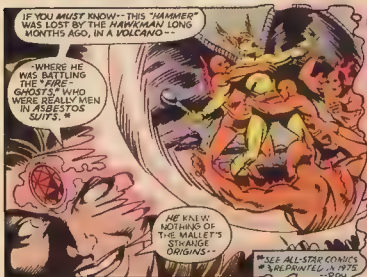


NOW I HAVE THE SECOND OF THE 3 TALISMANS OF POWER, AND--

HUH? THAT JEWEL ON YOUR FOREHEAD-- IT'S INTERACTING WITH THE HAMMER SOMEHOW

C MON. ULTRA-- WHAT GIVES?

! WORK FOR YOU! YOU CAN TELL US!



IF YOU MUST KNOW-- THIS "HAMMER" WAS LOST BY THE HAWKMAN LONG MONTHS AGO, IN A VOLCANO--

-WHERE HE WAS BATTLING THE "FIRE-GHOSTS," WHO WERE REALLY MEN IN ASBESTOS SUITS. *

HE KNEW NOTHING OF THE MULLET'S STRANGE ORIGINS--

*SEE ALL-STAR COMICS #3 REPRINTED IN 1975 --ROY



--THOUGH I HAVE ASCERTAINED THAT IT WAS CREATED BY AN ELDER RACE, LONG VANISHED FROM THE EARTH



LEARNING OF IT, I HELPED A CRIMINAL METALLURGIST NAMED FAIRY TALES FENTON ESCAPE FROM PRISON-- IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS AGREEING TO FIND THE WEAPON

THAT WAS A MISTAKE.

ITS AURA OF POWER UNWOUND FENTON'S MIND-- HE THOUGHT HE ACTUALLY WAS THE NORSE GOD THOR

*SEE ISSUE #18 OF THIS MAG. --ROY

AND WHEN AFTER REVENGE IN THE WISKED HERO WHO SENT HIM TO PRISON. *



NOW AT LAST, I'VE UNDONE THE WORK FENTON DID MY MASTER PLAN, WHICH NOW WHAT?

SO, NOUS LIKE A PLAN OVERHEAD.

NOT JUST ANY PLANE, DEATHBOLT...

THAT MUST BE
SUPERMAN'S
CITADEL DOWN
THERE, RIGHT,
GUYS?

YEAH, BUT WHY'D
CYCLOTRON TAKE
BRANDY THERE,
UNLESS--?

UNLESS HE
PLANNED TO
JOIN MORE OF
HIS ILK, AND GANG
UP ON SUPERMAN
AND COMPANY!

AND ANY-
BODY WHO'S
GOT THAT
KIND OF
NERVE ISN'T
GONNA BE
EASY.

GOOD THING
YOU CALLED
US, JOHNNY.

CHECK! IT COST US A BORROWED
PLANE, BUT AT LEAST I WAS
ABLE TO TRACK THAT RADIO-
ACTIVE TRAIL HE--
HUH!?

SOMEBODY'S BLASTING A
HOLE IN THE MOUNTAIN!

THEN--THEY'RE
EXPECTING US!

MOST
DECIDEDLY,
FOOLS!

CYCLOTRON!
DEATHBOLT!
GET THEM!

CAN
I--?

YES, YOU HAVE MY
PERMISSION TO KILL
THEM, IF YOU SO DESIRE.

DO I! I'M GETTIN' TIRED
OF JUST ZAPPIN' AWAY,
WITHOUT--

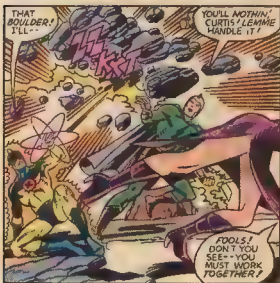
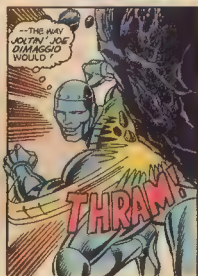
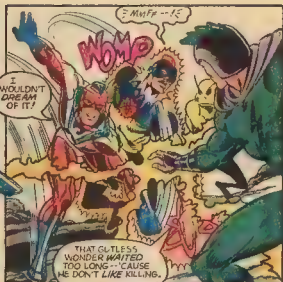
I GET
THE IDEA,
SPARKY.
YOU'RE REAL
HOT STUFF--

--BUT YOU'RE
STILL
SLOW AS
MOLASSES
COMPARED
TO JOHNNY
QUICK!

HEY--
WHAT--?

AND YOU ARE EVEN SLOWER--

--CONTRASTED
WITH THE
SPEED OF
THOUGHT!



MEANWHILE

As I write this the new year is but seventy-two hours old. Certainly the beginning of a new year is the proper time to reflect upon the frenetic but immensely satisfying year just ended and to contemplate the seductive promises of the year ahead.

I guess one should also wonder if next year will *really* be 1984. Will George Orwell's chilling predictions of a society repressed become a reality? Probably not. It's unlikely that that much change can occur in a year.

Then again, there are those who feel DC has made a significant and dramatic change in the last year. Witness the following:

Dec. 25
Dear Dick.

I've been waiting about a year before I wrote this, because I'm 32 and don't really have the time anymore to write fan letters. But after watching how DC has dramatically improved lately, I could put it off no longer.

This is just a note to tell you that, for the first time in perhaps ten or more years, I'm actually more excited to go to the newsstands and look to see what DC's are out than what Marvel's. Your influx of talent, plus the new books, mini-series, and other experimentation, have made this the best time for DC since the late sixties. It's a really exciting time to be reading comics (and that's the first time I have been able to say that in years), and your company is, to a large extent, responsible for this.

In particular, I wanted to comment on your maxi-series **CAMELOT 3000**, which is a truly superlative effort on everyone's part, from writer to artist to inker and so forth.

Rarely has a book been so cohesively excellent in my recent memory...perhaps the Miller run of **Daredevil** is the only book that comes close to matching it. This is *great* comics.

Also, I wanted you to know that I really am enjoying all of the extra work that some of your artists are putting into these color overlays, for everything from background buildings to computer displays. It's these little extras that make me aware that you are trying to give us a little extra pizzazz for our money.

Another experiment I think is working very well indeed is the bi-weekly Batman stories via **Detective** and Bats' own book. Excellent idea, and I hope to see more of this in other DC's.

Naturally, I love the **TEEN TITANS**. But I also commend you for books like **All-Star** and the **Batman** series, which receive less favorable fan gushings. Anyway, that's just skimming the surface, but I just wanted to get something off while I had the chance.

Dick, pass these thanks onto all parties involved, and keep up the excellent work.

Sincerely,
Jeff Gelb

Thanks, Jeff, for the kind words. Copies of your letter have been passed along to the appropriate talented people. A pat on the head is just as necessary to the creative ego as being paid. Maybe more so.

It is always a kick to have one's efforts noticed and appreciated. Letters like yours stoke the creative fires for us. You see how far we've come but it's hard for us to judge our progress objectively. We start out with a goal, a vision. We rarely achieve that goal and are

disappointed. But, (and here's the good part), you never saw our vision...You saw only the end result. More than you expected...Less than we aimed for...But, maybe a noticeable step forward!

ONE-LINERS: Many thanks to Catherine Yronwode for her kind words in a recent "Fit to Print" column; only my desire to keep from turning *this* column into a mutual admiration society prevents me from responding in kind; maybe another time, Cat. Rumor has it that a certain editor-in-chief at a certain 'other' comic company was recently promoted to vice-president; congratulations, Jim; way to go! ...In case you hadn't noticed, the same title follows my name these days; neat.

...To make up for the above lapse, DC is allowing me to publish a 'movie special' to coincide with the release of **Superman III**; no details on format or creative team but it will be a 48-page adaptation of the movie script.

The "Meanwhile" column that ran in most of our April issues confused a number of our readers and I'd like to put things in order. Mike Flynn's by-line appeared at the end of the column giving many the notion that he had written the entire page. In truth, I wrote the column up to the Brooke Shields sub-head; Mike supplied all of the remaining copy. The confusion stems from the page not being brought to me for my signature before being sent to the engraver and my closing tag, "thank you and good afternoon," being dropped.

Just finished reading the script to the first issue of **THE SWORD OF THE ATOM** and realized that I haven't said much about it. Co-plotted by Jan Strnad and Gil Kane, with art by Gil. Issue #1, cover-dated September, will be on sale June 23rd.

Another thing I haven't talked much about is this year's **BATMAN ANNUAL**. Mike Barr came up with an unusual story concept and much to my pleasure the multi-talented Michael Golden agreed to draw it. If his schedule allows, he will also ink and color his pencils. Boy! Won't that be neat? (I use that word too much...Sophomoric.)

Thank you and good afternoon

Dick



LORD! THAT ULTRA SURE CAN CONTROL HER NEW POWERS-- TO HAVE ZAPPED SUPERMAN, WITHOUT KILLING YOU AND ME!

AND THE ONE CALLED CYCLOTRON'S SEALED UP THE CREVICE BEHIND THEM.

BELLE! LANTERN! THANK GOD YOU'RE BOTH ALL RIGHT!

YEAH, BUT WHY DID SHE SPARE US ALL-- WHEN HER CRONIES HAD US AT THEIR MERCY?

I CAN GUESS, STEEL..

SHE PROBABLY FIGURES WE WON'T DARE OPPOSE HER IN THE FUTURE--

--WHILE SHE HOLDS THE OTHERS HOSTAGE!

BUT, NOW THAT SHE'S GOT THE HAMMER-- AND THE POWERSTONE--

AND, SOME DISTANCE BELOW, DEATHBOLT IS WONDERING MUCH THE SAME THING...

LISTEN, ULTRA, I KNOW WHY BLEEDING-HEART HERE DRAGGED ALONG HIS OLD GIRLFRIEND, HOPIN' TO IMPRESS 'ER...

I AM QUITE POSITIVE OF IT, DEATHBOLT.

WHAT'S SHE GOING TO DO WITH ALL THAT POWER??

...AN' I KNOW YOU WERE ALWAYS CARPIN' ABOUT GETTIN' REVENGE ON SUPERMAN...

BUT D'YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE GONNA BE ABLE TO PUT YOUR BRAIN IN THAT ROBOT SHELL?

IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, NOTHING WILL DELAY MY TRUE PLAN, AS SOON AS I HAVE THE FINAL TALISMAN I NEED TO COMPLETE MY POWER--

--THE GOLDEN HELMET OF DOCTOR FATE!

NEXT
ISSUE: **ENTER AMAZING-MAN!** BUT DON'T BE TOO SURE WHICH SIDE HE'S ON!

ALL-STAR SQUADRON

L-1298

DC COMICS, INC., 666 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10013

Dear Lan and Roy,

ALL-STAR SQUADRON may have had a cute beginning, but it was deadly serious from then on! I was glad to see Wonder Woman in action in #16, as she is not technically a JSA member at this time (early 1942). She was great in the recent Annual, and I was equally glad that a good deal of this issue was devoted to her. What with Steve Trevor and a cameo by the Holiday Girls, this issue in many ways seemed like a WONDER WOMAN or SENSATION COMICS story, with the All-Stars merely guest-stars. Thanks for the special emphasis on the Amazing Amazon!

On another point, this is the second mention of the JSA's first meeting-place, and I've always thought it had always been the brownstone house. I hope Roy pursues this point and shows us just when the JSA relocated themselves in the familiar brownstone. Also, the painting on the wall (p.2) showing the original eight members of the Justice Society as they were in ALL-STAR COMICS #3 was a nice touch, both in and of itself and as a tribute to the cover of that historic comic. Seeing the JSA as they originally were again brings to mind the question of why Hourman left so early! Here again, perhaps Roy will answer this question which has plagued JSA fans for over forty years.

The art by Gonzales and Rick Hoberg was excellent. The latter is truly exceptional, and I hope to see his work throughout the DC universe. As to Adrian, I have really loved your work here and appreciate the value you have given this comic, and can only wish you luck in your ventures elsewhere.

Kent A. Phenix
1321 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Hourman and more about the JSA-HQ (the original of which was in a hotel, as clearly shown in ALL-STAR #3 "way back in 1940) coming up very shortly, honest. On the matter of Wonder Woman and her foe Nuclear, however, we want now to give you a bit of information which got squeezed out of issue #16 because Adrian accidentally drew an extra page of story, which necessitated cutting out the letters page at the last moment:

"The Magnetic Merauder!" was a response to a story which appeared in WONDER WOMAN #43, 1950, which was a pretty strange case itself. In that story, Nuclear appeared—and it was stated that he had fought Wonder Woman before. In fact, two or three flashback panels referred to that adventure, and it was well established both that the Holiday Girls had seen Nuclear and that Steve Trevor had saved the Amazon at the last moment by shooting Nuclear, who fell into a fiery pit.

Only problem was—that early story, if it was ever drawn, was never published! We suspect it existed at one time, but can't prove it. So I decided to write the "first" Nuclear story, more than thirty years after the "second" one appeared. Just a little bit more of the kind of "retroactive continuity," as someone called it, which is one of the main reasons I enjoy writing ALL-STAR SQUADRON more than any other comic I ever scripted.

As to Rick Hoberg, he's also inked recent issues of GREEN LANTERN and penciled a couple of stories for yet a third Thomas-edited title, CAPTAIN CARROT AND HIS AMAZING

ZOO CREW! Rick's a talented young West Coast artist who worked first with the late great Russ Manning on Tarzan material, later with Roy at Marvel (on STAR WARS #6, a Kull story, etc.). He and Roy have known each other for several years, and both thought it was about time they worked together again. From here on out, we suspect that you'll be seeing a lot more of Rick's work in Dynamic DC's magazines!

—R.T.

Dear All-Star People:

Issue #18 ("Vengeance from Valhalla!") marked one of the weirdest but most intriguing landmarks yet in a series that seems bent on breaking all the rules of how to write super-hero groups, including ones partly formulated over the years by Roy Thomas himself, when R.T. was writing the longest consecutive issues of THE AVENGERS for Marvel, as well as putting in noteworthy stints on FANTASTIC FOUR, THE X-MEN, etc. Strangest of all this time was the way a character who never appeared in his most familiar (to current readers) guise for the whole issue still managed to dominate a six-hero story.

That character? *The Sandman*. Though not featured or even mentioned on the cover, he dominates the proceedings in flashback and from afar.

Proof? It's Tarantula's resemblance to Sandman—their costumes, anyway—which first causes a radio reporter to stake out JSA-HQ. The radio broadcast, in turn, brings "Fairy-Tales" Fenton, a.k.a. "Thor," the Villain from Valhalla, onto the spot to kill his old enemy—the Sandman. And of course, even in the whocko flashback, which purports to be a Tarantula origin, the Sandman's girlfriend Dian Belmont dresses up in his gasmask-sporting outfit, so that all we see of that most famous version is a single symbolic shot.

Naturally, Sandman does get into the proceedings for a little while, but even then it's in another costume—minus gloves, etc. But because of Dian's tragic death, that origin tale tells us even more about Sandman than it does about Tarantula.

A silly story? Perhaps. But all in all, a classic—and if Jerry Ordway's really taking over full art chores with #19 as I've heard, it looks from this corner as if Adrian Gonzales leaves the series not with a whimper, but with a definite bang!

Mr. John Schuch
1667 Manzanita Av.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

We're with you, John—and you can see more of the Thomas/Gonzales team each month in a little mag called *ARAK, SON OF THUNDER*. Meanwhile, thanks for the "whocko" analysis of "Vengeance from Valhalla." And here I thought I was only finding out still another way to have fun with Norse mythology!

Oh yes, and to correct a typo on #18's letters page: Joe Simon and Jack Kirby took over the Sandman in *ADVENTURE COMICS* #71, 1942, not in #7 as accidentally printed. It's interesting that it was the Simon-Kirby sand-slinger who seemed most popular then, but the earlier gasmask-wearing version that most readers want to see nowadays. Well, maybe one of these first issues....

—R.T.

Dear Roy,

I guess everyone is sad to see a favorite super-hero go. I didn't mind the leaving of Plastic Man and the Phantom Lady after issue #3, and Plas' reappearance in #7 softened the loss of a pair of my favorite 1940's heroes. Now, most of the original eight heroes of ALL-STAR SQUADRON, including the Shining Knight (whose leaving prompted this letter) are gone, replaced in part by Firebrand and Commander Steel.

I can only say that I hope Robotman, Liberty Belle, and Johnny Quick stay on forever. I'd like to add Hawkman to that group and make it a quartet. To me, any Earth-Two story without Hawkman is lacking in something (yeah, I know—Hawkman—but that's not what I mean). It loses a part of its stability and reality. The recent ALL-STAR SQUADRON ANNUAL #1, for instance, did not contain any of the four.

Eric Skov
R.D. 2, Box 368
Waldoboro, ME 04572

Ah, but it did, Eric—namely, the Hawkman himself. In one shot. As a matter of fact, if you look back over the first nearly two dozen issues of ALL-STAR SQUADRON, you'll discover that there is one, and only one, character whose likeness (if not physical body) appears in every single tale—and that's Carter Hall's winged alter ego. This is because the Hawkman, especially as drawn by the great Joe Kubert, was my favorite super-hero back in the 40's, as well as the only hero who appeared in each and every issue of the original ALL-STAR COMICS, even the two published before the creation of the Justice Society! He was also chairman of the group for most of the run—so I (with then-editor Len Wein's happy concurrence) decided there'd be at least one panel featuring the Hawk in every single issue of the mag. It's been tough once or twice—but that's all in the past, now that the feathered fury is back in Ninth-Metal harness in both the All-Stars and the JSA! And don't worry—you'll see more of Plastic Man, Phantom Lady, and the Shining Knight one of these first fine days, as well.

—R.T.

Dear Roy and Len,

I never had the privilege of reading the original version of "The Trial of Robotman" in the 1940's. However, I did just finish reading the revamped and revitalized version by Thomas, Gonzales, and Hoberg. The quality of the issue was excellent; I'd bet my entire ALL-STAR collection the original story never came close to matching the high calibre of scripting or artistry present in this modern-day presentation. I greatly appreciated Roy's explaining the additions he made the reasoning behind the fabrication by Johnny Quick. The story was not without some minor weaknesses, but as an overall effect they hardly mattered. I'd like to see the original Robotman story reprinted some day, because then the younger fans could see that, even given a nostalgia factor, comics are much better today than they have ever been. With rare exceptions the super-hero offerings of the Golden Age pale before the quality of today's publications. However, I'd still like to see the original versions of the stories in #16 and #17. Most of these tales would probably be brief enough to be presented as back-up stories in ALL-STAR SQUADRON. What do you think?

Wallace Lee Hopkins
Box 428
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

We think you may just get your wish, Wallace, 'cause managing editor Dick Giordano's just informed Roy that he'll soon be—no, on second thought, we'll hold off the formal announcement for a month or two, till we have more details. Suffice it to say, without taking away a single page from ALL-STAR SQUADRON (which needs all the panels it can get!), you may soon get a chance to compare the old and the new. And nobody'll be happier about it than...

—R.T.

NOSTALGIC POSTSCRIPT: Just thought everybody ought to know that ALL-STAR SQUADRON (and of course its predecessor, the legendary JSA) have spawned a new fanzine, ALL-STAR FANDOM, edited by Anthony R. Cardno, as mentioned here a few months back. (See that issue for details.) It's still got a few rough edges, but there's a lot of enthusiasm and more than a modicum of talent in evidence. More to the point just now, ASF, like all good zines, has taken a poll of its fledgling members. The results: "What three heroes would you like to see more of?" The winners—Wildcat and Hourman...followed by at least a vote or two for almost every other Golden Age hero. "Which super-villains would you like to see more of?" The winner was the Alexi Luthor of Earth-Two, followed by Brain Wave, Ultra-Humanite, Psycho-Pirate, and the Ultra-Man of Earth-Three. Hmmm...three of those five have appeared, one way or another, the past few issues since ace inker Jerry Ordway took over the mag as ace penciler as well, so maybe we're on the right wavelength. And nobody's happier than Jerry and I that the great JSA heroes are mostly out of khaki and into their color-splashed costumes again!

—Roy Thomas.



COMING COMICS, APRIL 1983

ON SALE APRIL 7TH

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #216—Story by Gerry Conway, pencils by Don Heck, inks by Romeo Tanghal. Rejoin the JLA and the SIREN SISTERHOOD as they quest for the staff of Ikral PLUS—the dynamic debut of the newest member of the SIREN SISTERHOOD! You'll have to read the book to discover who he is and what he wants! Cover by Hennigan and Giordano.

WONDER WOMAN #305—Story by Dan Mishkin, pencils by Gene Colan, inks by Frank McLaughlin. Plans for a pleasant day's picnic are wrecked by an invasion far deadlier than Antl Plus: THE HUNTRESS, in a thriller by writer Joey Cavallieri, meets the insidious DR. TARR and PROFESSOR FETTER.

ARAK, SON OF THUNDER #23—Story by Roy and Danette Thomas, pencils by Adrian Gonzales, inks by Alfredo Alcalá. What is the solution to the riddle of Gog and Magog? To discover it, the Son of Thunder must face the demon Belphegor—and live! Events lead to next month's thrilling double-sized conclusion!

BLACKHAWK #280—The greatest fighting team of all in an anthology of action by writer Mark Evanier and a bevy of virtuoso illustrators: Howard Chaykin, Alex Toth and Dick Rockwell! The dynamic work of Dan Spiegel rounds out the issue with a small framing sequence. See why BLACKHAWK is the surprise sensation of the year!